

WEOBLEY RURAL DISTRICT  
HEREFORDSHIRE

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ANNUAL REPORT

on the

STATE of the PUBLIC HEALTH  
for the Year  
1951

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# Staff of the Public Health Department

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Medical Officer of Health	...	...	L. N. GOULD, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H. (Appointed 29th Jan., 1951).
Sanitary Inspector	...	...	T. K. DUNCAN, M.R.S.A., M.I.E.E., M.R.S.I. (Resigned 4th Aug., 1951).  EVAN LEWIS, C.R.S.I. (Appointed temporarily from 7th Aug., 1951 until 30th Nov., 1951).  LEONARD MORLEY, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A. (Appointed from 1st Dec., 1951 onwards).
Clerk — Area Medical Office	...		G. PROSSER.

Public Health Office: 4, CHURCH STREET, LEOMINSTER.

Telephone No.: Leominster 95.

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*To the Chairman and Members of the Weobley Rural District Council.*

MR. CHAIRMAN, GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1951, which has been compiled in accordance with Ministry of Health Circular 42/51.

During 1951 three cases of Food Poisoning were notified involving two outbreaks, in both of which infection occurred at a considerable distance from this district. The third case was of secondary infection.

In the last quarter of the year 57 cases of Measles occurred and daily visits to the school by the School Nurse ensured early detection and treatment. There were no fatalities.

I wish to thank the Chairman and Members of the Council for their interest and support and the Clerk, Mr. Williams and Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Morley for their help and co-operation at all times.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

L. N. GOULD,  
*Medical Officer of Health.*

## SECTION A. STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in Acres)	...	...	...	...	...	...	49,727
Population	...	...	...	...	...	...	6,518
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1951) according to the Rate Books	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,197
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	...	£21,215
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	£85/0/0

### EXTRACT FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR:

			Total	Male	Female
LIVE BIRTHS (Legitimate)	...	...	125	60	65
(Illegitimate)	...	...	8	6	2
		Total	133	66	67
STILL BIRTHS (Legitimate)	...	...	Nil		
(Illegitimate)	...	...	Nil		
		Total	Nil		
DEATHS	...	...	76	43	33
DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES	...	...	Nil		
DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE	...	...			
YEAR OF AGE (Legitimate)	...	...	2	2	—
(Illegitimate)	...	...	Nil		

### COMPARABLE DATA FOR ENGLAND AND WALES, 1951.

Birth rate (per 1,000 of the estimated resident population)	...	...	20.4
Birth rate for England and Wales	...	...	15.5
Still Birth rate (per 1,000 of the estimated resident population)	...	...	Nil
Still Birth rate for England and Wales	...	...	0.36
Death rate (per 1,000 of the estimated resident population)	...	...	11.7
Death rate for England and Wales	...	...	12.5
Infant Mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)	...	...	15.0
Infant Mortality rate for England and Wales	...	...	29.6

## SECTION B. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

### LABORATORY FACILITIES

Laboratory facilities are available at the County Public Health Laboratory, County Hospital, Hereford.

The number of specimens sent by the Public Health Department to the laboratory for bacteriological examination from the Northern Districts of Herefordshire during the year is as follows:—

Examined for:—

			Positive	Negative	Total
Food Poisoning	...	...	2	486	555
Dysentery	...	...	67		
Diphtheria	...	...	2	110	165
Scarlet Fever	...	...	53		
Typhoid Carriers (Blood)	...	...	1	20	21
Miscellaneous Examinations (e.g. Eye Swabs, etc.)	...	...	2	16	18

### CLINICS

Under the County Council and Regional Hospital Board schemes the following clinic facilities are available to residents in the district:—



## SCHOOL HEALTH AND CHILD WELFARE SERVICES

Minor Ailments Clinic	...	Monday and Friday, 10.0 to 11.0 a.m.
Orthopaedic Clinic	... ..	Tuesdays (By appointment)
Speech Therapy Clinic	... ..	Wednesdays (By appointment)
Child Psychology	... ..	Thursdays (By appointment)
Vaccination	... ..	First Friday of each month, 11.0 a.m.
Infant Welfare Clinic	... ..	Fridays, 2.0 to 4.0 p.m.
Dental Clinic	... ..	Fridays, 2.0 to 4.0 p.m.

All the above clinics are held in the annexe at the Leominster Cottage Hospital.

Child Welfare Centre: at Weobley, on the first Monday in each month at 2.30 p.m., and at Dilwyn on the last Monday in each month at 2.30 p.m.

Venereal Diseases: At the County Hospital, Hereford, on Wednesdays and Fridays.

The schemes also provide for Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics, Paediatric, Ear, Nose and Throat and Eye Clinics. Children are referred to these Clinics as and when required, on the recommendation of the School Medical or Infant Welfare Authority, or at the request of the Medical Practitioner.

I am indebted to Mr. Leonard Morley, Sanitary Inspector to the Council, for the following statement (Section C to E) furnished under the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations.

## SECTION C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES AND INSPECTIONS

### PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE AREA

The Weobley Rural District is situated in the North-Western portion of the County of Herefordshire, and comprises twenty-six Parishes, each of which has a Village or Hamlet as its nucleus. The largest centres of the community are Weobley, Foxley Estate, Eardisland, Dilwyn and Canon Pyon.

The principal Industry is Agriculture, and the major portion of the population is connected either directly, or indirectly with it.

### WATER SUPPLIES

The only Public Water Supply is in the Parish of Weobley. This Scheme is fed from the Springs situated at the Hurst, Dilwyn, and a piped supply is provided to Weobley Village. No cases of water shortage were reported during the year, although consumption continued to slightly increase.

Under present circumstances much water is allowed to run to waste, after being used to operate the Ram Pump which supplies the compensation water to the three Farms at The Hurst.

By increasing the size of the Storage Reservoir and installation of an Electric Pump to supply compensation water, the existing Springs could be used to greater advantage.

Chlorination is carried out at The Hurst, and results of Bacteriological examination indicate that the water is "Highly satisfactory."

Number of Houses provided with piped water supply	...	...	119
Number of Houses supplied from Stand Pipe	...	...	16

### PARISH WATER SUPPLIES

The greater portion of the area is dependant for Water Supply on Wells, and in some cases Springs. The Parishes of Mansel Lacy, Yazor and Byford, receive a piped supply from the Byford Pumping Station.

Eardisland, Mansel Gamage, Canon Pyon, and Staunton-on-Wye, also have small private Piped Water Supplies.

## THE EXAMINATION AND SAMPLING OF WATER SUPPLIES

During the year 59 Water Samples were obtained and submitted for either Chemical or Bacteriological examination, as follows:—

		<i>Number</i>	<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Unsatisfactory</i>
Chemical Examination	...	5	5	—
Bacteriological Examinations	...	23	16	7

### CHLORINATED SUPPLY

Bacteriological Examinations	...	31	21	10
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Where, after examination, Wells have been found unsatisfactory, the persons concerned have been notified and instructed in methods to be adopted to safeguard public health.

## DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

A system of Public Sewers with Disposal Works is provided in the Village of Weobley. The Sewers are in good condition generally, except that the length of 9in. dia. Sewer from the Burton Wood Estate appears to be laid with a shallow fall, and it is considered that the installation of an Automatic Flushing Tank on this length would effect considerable improvement.

The Sewage Works cannot be regarded as being entirely satisfactory in its present state, but with constant supervision, the effluent is such that no complaints have been received. Consideration should be given towards effecting improvement at the outfall works.

Dilwyn is provided with a Sewer which serves part of the Village. It discharges untreated Sewage into a ditch adjacent to the Common. This arrangement cannot be regarded as satisfactory. The provision of a Sewerage Scheme should be earnestly considered.

Number of Inspections carried out in connection with drainage problems					57
Number of Drain Tests carried out	...	...	...	...	20
Number of Sewer Inspections	...	...	...	...	10

## RIVERS AND STREAMS

No cases of Pollution have been reported during the year.

## REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

The whole of the area is scavenged by Contract, the larger Villages receive a collection once every six weeks and the more sparsely populated areas once every three months, the one exception being Foxley Housing Estate which, owing to the special circumstances pertaining towards the end of the year, a weekly collection was provided.

The collection of Household Refuse is a service which is greatly appreciated throughout the District, and from a Public Health point of view, more frequent collections are desirable.

Towards the latter part of the year, the Council were considering the adoption of a Direct Labour Scheme of Refuse Collection and Disposal, with a view to effecting some improvement on present methods.

The Tip at Stretford is treated regularly to ensure that the Rat population is kept to a minimum. The extreme difficulty in obtaining soil or other materials suitable for covering, precludes the possibility of sealing the Tips regularly, but every effort is made to provide covering material, whenever it becomes available.



## DISINFECTIONS

Terminal Disinfection is carried out as requisite. Formalin gas or sulphur dioxide being employed when appropriate.

## RODENT CONTROL

During the latter part of the year a Rodent Inspector was appointed to work in conjunction with the Dore and Bredwardine R.D.C., on a fifty-fifty basis. The Inspector commences his duties on the 18th January, 1952, when it is anticipated that a survey of the entire area will be commenced, with a view to taking more effective action in an effort to rid the area of the Rodent nuisance.

## SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

INSPECTIONS UNDER			NUMBER	Informal Notices Served	Statutory Notices Served	Notices complied with
Bakehouses	...	...	3	—	—	—
Building Inspections	...	...	38	—	—	—
Butchers' Shops	...	...	3	—	—	—
Building Licensing	...	...	1	—	—	—
Council Housing Schemes	...	...	14	—	—	—
Council House Repairs	...	...	37	—	—	—
Council House Management	...	...	3	—	—	—
Drainage Inspections	...	...	70	—	—	—
Drain Testing	...	...	20	—	—	—
Dairies Inspections	...	...	1	—	—	—
Food Premises	...	...	39	3	—	3
Housing Inspections	...	...	57	6	—	6
Housing Management	...	...	3	—	—	—
Housing Repairs	...	...	38	38	—	20
Hop Pickers	...	...	34	—	—	—
Infectious Diseases	...	...	33	—	—	—
Ice Cream Premises	...	...	1	—	—	—
Lodging Houses	...	...	8	—	—	—
Milk Samples	...	...	3	—	—	—
Movable Dwellings	...	...	7	—	—	—
Miscellaneous	...	...	8	—	—	—
Nuisances	...	...	33	15	—	15
Over-crowding	...	...	2	2	—	2
Public Health Act, 1936	...	...	11	11	—	10
Petroleum Inspections	...	...	3	—	—	—
Rodent Control	...	...	9	—	—	—
Refuse Collection & Disposal	...	...	25	—	—	—
Rent Collections	...	...	310	—	—	—
Sewers	...	...	10	—	—	—
Suspected Food Poisoning	...	...	1	—	—	—
Schools	...	...	4	—	—	—
Unsound Food	...	...	3	—	—	—
Water Samples	...	...	46	—	—	—
Water Supplies	...	...	160	—	—	—

FACTORIES ACT 1937

The list of Factories within the Rural Area are as follows:—

PARISH				FACTORIES			OTHER PREMISES
				MECHANICAL POWER		TOTAL	
				With	Without		
Almeley	...	...		2	—	2	—
Birley	...	...		—	—	—	—
Bishopstone	...	...		—	—	—	—
Blakemere	...	...		—	—	—	1
Bridge Sollars	...	...		—	—	—	—
Brinsop	...	...		—	—	—	—
Byford	...	...		—	—	—	1
Canon Pyon	...	...		1	—	1	2
Dilwyn	...	...		2	—	2	1
Eardisland	...	...		—	—	—	2
King's Pyon	...	...		—	—	—	—
Kinnersley	...	...		—	—	—	2
Letton	...	...		—	—	—	—
Mansel Gamage	...	...		—	—	—	—
Mansel Lacy	...	...		—	—	—	—
Moccas	...	...		1	—	1	—
Monnington-on-Wye	...	...		—	—	—	—
Norton Canon	...	...		—	—	—	1
Preston-on-Wye	...	...		—	—	—	2
Sarnesfield	...	...		—	—	—	—
Stretford	...	...		—	—	—	—
Weobley	...	...		6	—	6	1
Wormsley	...	...		—	—	—	—
Yazor	...	...		—	—	—	—
				12	—	12	13

SECTION D. HOUSING

Number of Council Houses completed in 1951	...	...	...	8
Number of Dwellings provided by Council Conversion Schemes during 1951	...	...	...	2
Number of Council Houses under Construction	...	...	...	12
Number of Privately Owned Houses completed during 1951	...	...	...	1
Number of Privately Owned Houses under construction	...	...	...	—
Number of Demolition Orders made during the year	...	...	...	2
Number of Houses made fit by Owners as an alternative to demolition	...	...	...	1

Owing to Government Policy in regard to Rent Control, it is becoming increasingly difficult to make Property Owners effect repairs, and it is frequently pointed out that the Rents charged do not by any means cover the cost of necessary repairs.

HOP PICKERS' QUARTERS

Number of Farms having accommodation for Pickers	...	...	...	7
Number of visits	...	...	...	34

A number of defects were in evidence in two Farms, and the various matters were taken up with the farmers concerned.

A representation was made to the Ministry of Health with a view to effecting improvements in the Hop Pickers' Byelaws, but so far a reply has not been received.

No cases of Notifiable Disease occurred among the Pickers during the season.



SECTION E. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

MILK SUPPLY

The control of milk supplies has now been taken on by the National Agricultural Advisory Service.

SCHOOL MILK

By arrangement with the County Council, samples of milk are obtained and submitted for examination where supplies are undesignated. At present only two Schools in the area receive undesignated milk.

Number of Samples taken ... 9.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

There are three Private Slaughterhouses in the area, all of which are closed.

FOOD CONTROL

The following food after inspection was considered to be unfit for human consumption, and was voluntarily surrendered by the Owners to be destroyed:—

FOOD		QUANTITY	CONDITION
Tinned Beans	...	1 lb.	... Damaged Container
Tinned Milk	...	10 pints	... Blown Containers
Bacon	...	44 lbs.	... Internal
Graded Salmon	...	15½ ozs.	... Blown Container
Peeled Tomatoes	...	3 lbs. 10 ozs.	... Blown Container
Pilchards	...	1 lb.	... Blown Container

SECTION F.—PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

ANALYSIS OF TOTAL NOTIFIED CASES, ACCORDING TO AGE

DISEASE		AGE OF PATIENT													Total	
		0—1	1—2	2—3	3—4	4—5	5—6	6—7	7—10	10—15	15—20	20—30	30—40	Over 40		Unknown
Scarlet Fever	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Whooping Cough	...	5	3	8	7	4	3	3	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	37
Measles	...	5	6	9	8	10	11	12	6	4	4	—	—	—	—	76
Pneumonia	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	6	—	10
Meningococcal infection	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

FOOD POISONING

There were two outbreaks, both of which occurred outside the district. There were three cases, one being due to secondary infection. No deaths occurred. One outbreak was due to Salmonella typhi-murium, the other Salmonella S. Newport. The foods involved in both outbreaks were not detected but in each instance manufactured meat products were included in the suspected meal.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

No cases. were reported during the year under this Act.

DIPHThERIA IMMUNISATION

The following figures are presented through information supplied by the County Medical Officer.

Number of children at 31st December, 1951 who had completed a course of Immunisation at any time before that date (i.e. at any time since 1st January, 1937).

Age at 31. 12. 51.	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5-9	10-14	Total under 15
i.e. Born in year	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1942- 1946	1937- 1941	
	3	67	73	82	92	435	402	1154

These figures compared with the Registrar General's estimate of the mid-year child population indicate that 48% of the child population under five years of age has been immunised against diphtheria as compared with 47.9% at the end of 1950. 82.9% of the child population of 5-14 years has been immunised against diphtheria as compared with 81.9% at the end of the previous year. To sum up, 69.1% of the children under 15 years of age has been immunised compared with 67.9% for the year ending 31st December, 1950.

TUBERCULOSIS

At the end of 1951 the Tuberculosis Register contained the names of thirty-seven males and thirty-two females who normally reside within the district.

During the year eighteen new cases were notified, fifteen on account of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and three because of the presence of the disease in parts of the body other than the lungs.

During the same period one death of a person suffering from Tuberculosis occurred, seven recovered and five left the district.

# CAUSES OF DEATH (ALL AGES)

DISEASE	Males	Females	Total
1.—Tuberculosis, respiratory ...	2	—	2
2. Tuberculosis, other ... ..	—	1	1
3. Syphilitic disease ... ..	—	—	—
4. Diphtheria ... ..	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough ... ..	—	—	—
6. Meningococcal infections ...	—	—	—
7. Acute poliomyelitis ... ..	—	—	—
8. Measles ... ..	—	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—	—
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach ...	1	—	1
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	—	—	—
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast ...	—	2	2
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus ...	—	—	—
14. Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms ...	4	2	6
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia ... ..	—	—	—
16. Diabetes ... ..	—	2	2
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system ..	5	3	8
18. Coronary disease, angina ...	3	5	8
19. Hypertension with heart disease ...	1	—	1
20. Other heart disease ... ..	10	10	20
21. Other circulatory disease ...	—	—	—
22. Influenza ... ..	—	—	—
23. Pneumonia ... ..	1	1	2
24. Bronchitis ... ..	2	3	5
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	1	—	1
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ...	—	1	1
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ...	—	—	—
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis ... ..	1	—	1
29. Hyperplasia of prostate ... ..	3	—	3
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ...	—	—	—
31. Congenital malformations ...	1	—	1
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	5	2	7
33. Motor vehicle accidents ...	2	—	2
34. All other accidents ... ..	1	1	2
35. Suicide ... ..	—	—	—
36. Homicide and operations of war ...	—	—	—
All causes ...			76



